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From the President

Abraham J. Yu

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January 31, 2005

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Members and Friends of CEAL:

Since last October, numerous good news and unpleasant occurrences happened among the CEAL and East Asian Library communities. One of the most serious occurrences was the devastating flood that struck the University of Hawaii at Manoa last October. A six feet high flash flood decimated the ground floor of the Hamilton Library, causing horrendous losses. CEAL members and friends were shocked by this horrible disaster. On behalf of CEAL I extend my deepest sympathy to our colleagues at the University of Hawaii at Manoa for this calamity.

The upcoming Chicago meeting is going to be a great one. The pre-conference SCCTP Electronic Serials and Integrating Resources cataloging workshops, sponsored by the Committee on Technical Processing, are in place. In addition to the Plenary Session and committee meetings, there will be two round tables, one for small collections and the other for junior librarians to talk with experienced librarians. I would like to thank committee chairs for their efforts in arranging and organizing the pre-conference cataloging workshops, round tables, and programs for the annual meeting. I am also pleased that a number of speakers are from overseas.

The 2005 Plenary Session includes two important reports from Special Committees. The "Special Committee to Study Proposal for Comprehensive Review of LCSH/NAR/SAR Entries for East Asian Studies Materials" will present a report with recommendations. The "Special Committee on JEAL as a Peer-Reviewed Journal" will lead a discussion on JEAL to determine its future direction. Your ideas and opinions are important for the improvement of the quality of JEAL.

This issue of our journal includes four articles on the topics Library user services for Chinese students, U.S.-China Cooperative Digital Learning Laboratory proposal, Book trade in China, and Cataloging Wen shi zi liao. Also in this issue are the 2003-2004 CEAL statistical report, NCC 2004 meeting reports, and news of committee activities and new appointments, plus a book review of the new edition of T. H. Tsien's *Written on Bamboo & Silk*.

As the 2005 CEAL Meeting approaches, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Nominating Committee for their hard work and to welcome new faces to join in the Executive Board. I also would like to express my sincere appreciation to out-going Executive Board members for their support, dedication, and contributions to CEAL and East Asian library communities during the last few years. I look forward to seeing you in March as we convene in Chicago.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Abraham J. Yu". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

Abraham J. Yu, President
Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL)